

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Phone: (760) 346-7491

Public Notice No. 7-22-04
March 3, 2022
NPDES No. CA7000004

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs)
PROPOSED ORDER R7-2022-0006**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (Colorado River Basin Water Board) is releasing for public review and comment proposed Order R7-2022-0006, which will serve as an NPDES permit and WDRs for the Imperial Irrigation District Grass Carp Hatchery. The following discharger has applied for reissuance of the current NPDES permit, Order R7-2016-0003, under section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act NPDES permit program (33 U.S.C. § 1342):

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
GRASS CARP HATCHERY
485 EAST VILLA AVENUE
EL CENTRO – IMPERIAL COUNTY

Staff of the Colorado River Basin Water Board has prepared proposed Order R7-2022-0006 (Proposed Order) for the above discharger containing effluent and receiving water limitations and special provisions in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code, § 13000 et seq.). The public hearing to consider adoption of the Proposed Order will be on:

Date: April 12, 2022
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(with virtual public participation available)

The public may participate either in person at the physical meeting location or virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. Instructions concerning how to participate virtually are available on the Regional Water Board's website. Persons desiring to receive information about changes to the format of this meeting should sign up for the Lyris e-mail list by [Subscribing to our Electronic Mailing List](#) (Select Board Meetings Agenda).

Based on the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, and in accordance with Government Code section 11133 and Executive Order N-1-22, the meeting will occur solely via remote presence.

Interested persons are invited to attend and express their views orally on this matter at the public hearing. The Colorado River Basin Water Board requests that those persons wishing to speak at the hearing provide a copy of their oral comments in writing before or during the hearing to ensure accuracy of the record. Links for the meeting, a phone call option, and remote participation instructions are posted on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Remote Participation Instructions](#).

At the hearing, the Colorado River Basin Water Board will follow the Meeting Procedures found on its website at: [Colorado River Basin Water Board Meeting Procedures](#).

BACKGROUND

The Discharger owns and operates a fish hatchery located in El Centro, California where grass carp are raised for the control of aquatic vegetation in the irrigation canal and reservoir system of the Imperial Irrigation District. Fingerling carp are grown to a size of approximately 8 inches prior to being released into the system. An average of 12,000 pounds of harvestable weight fish are produced each year at the existing Facility. The Facility is split into two sections to accommodate different phases in grass carp growth and development. Fertilization and initial growth of the fish is conducted at the El Centro Fish Hatchery served by Discharge Point 001. According to daily discharge records for the past five years, the El Centro Fish Hatchery has an average daily flow of 0.16 MGD. The El Centro Fish Hatchery has a design flow of 1.44 MGD. When the carp have matured sufficiently to subsist on green plant material, they are transported to the Villa Road Grow-out Facility served by Discharge Point 002. According to daily discharge records for the past five years, the Villa Grow-out Facility has an average daily flow of 0.16 MGD. The Villa Grow-out Facility has a design flow of 1.08 MGD.

At the El Centro Fish Hatchery, intake water is diverted by gravity from the Imperial Irrigation District's Dogwood Canal to the Facility for use in aquatic organism production as process water. A collection of small and large fiberglass tanks are used for rearing the smallest fish which, once they mature to the juvenile stage, are then transferred to any of nine earthen, unlined ponds. Once the fish grow to 3 to 4 inches in size, they are transferred to the Villa Grow-out Facility.

The process water circulated in the fiberglass tanks and earthen ponds is conveyed to a primary collection sump and distributed between three secondary sumps. The secondary sumps possess a vertical header pipe equipped with a fine-mesh screen. Process water then collects at a final tertiary sump equipped with a long "mesh sock" designed to trap and retain grass carp eggs and fry or small fish. Process water is then pumped to a vegetated swale, where it drains by gravity to the inlet pipe for Discharge Point 001 to the Central Main Drain No. 5, a water of the United States.

The Villa Grow-out Facility is comprised of 12 earthen ponds and a 13th large holding pond. Process water from each pond is collected at a main sump for conveyance to a sedimentation pond. Water is treated via sedimentation and exits at Discharge Point

002, located on the distal end of the pond, to the Central Main Drain No. 5, a water of the United States.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Colorado River Basin Water Board will accept comments during a thirty (30) day public comment period, which begins **March 3, 2022** and ends **April 1, 2022**. Written comments on the proposed Order must be received no later than **5:00 p.m.** on **April 1, 2022**. Comments received by this deadline will be included in the administrative record.

Comments should be mailed to the attention of Fatima Alrahem at the address shown below or emailed to: Fatima.Alrahem@Waterboards.ca.gov or faxed to the office at (760) 341-6820.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The full text of the Proposed Order is available on the Colorado River Basin Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml

If you need a hard copy of the Proposed Order mailed to you, please contact Mary Castaneda by phone at (760) 776-8945 or e-mail at mary.castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov, or CJ Jasieniecki at (760) 346-7494 or via e-mail at: CJ.Jasieniecki@waterboards.ca.gov

ACCESSIBILITY

If you are disabled and require special accommodations to participate in this public hearing, please contact Hilda Vasquez at (760) 776-8950 or e-mail at hilda.vasquez@waterboards.ca.gov no later than ten (10) days before the scheduled public hearing. If you need interpreter services, please contact Mary Castaneda at (760) 776-8945 or via email Mary.Castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov, or CJ Jasieniecki at (760) 346-7494 or via e-mail at: CJ.Jasieniecki@waterboards.ca.gov at least 10 working days prior to the meeting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Fatima Alrahem at (760) 313-1290 or via email at Fatima.Alrahem@Waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you believe may be interested in this matter.

File: WDID No. 7A130128015, Imperial Irrigation District Grass Carp Hatchery, Board Order R7-2022-0006